

**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE RETURN
BANQUET FOR VICE-PREMIER, MR. DENG XIAOPING
ON 5TH MAY, 1979.**

Your Excellency, Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping, Madam Cho Lin, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of my wife and my delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to your excellency, Madam Cho Lin and all our distinguished Chinese Guests for honouring us with their gracious company this evening.

I would like to express my very deep appreciation to your excellency and, through your excellency, to government and the people of the People's Republic of China for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival on Wednesday. The meticulous arrangement by the officials and others connected with our visit has made our stay in this great city a most pleasant one. We thank them. The genial spring weather and the hospitable Chinese people made us feel even more welcome.

I enjoyed immensely the visit to your monumental historical sites — The Great Wall, the Ming Tombs the Forbidden City. For me this visit has indeed been a very pleasant experience.

For most of us in Malaysia, whatever we know of your great country has been from books, reports and journals. This visit provides the opportunity for us to know China personally, although superficially, to experience its vastness and meet with some of its immense population.

More important, this visit has enabled me to continue the dialogue with you and other leaders of your government. During the meeting which we had in the past three days, we briefed each other on how we perceive the developments around us, of our hopes and aspirations, of our worries and anxieties. We have been open and frank and I hope this frankness will be a continuing feature of our relations. Through this frank exchange of views we would be able to understand better each other's policies and sensitivities. This is vital to building a durable and lasting relationship. So much of the world problems have been caused by misunderstanding.

Your Excellency,

As you have said, our two countries have chosen different social and political system, based on our respective experience, history and socio-economic realities. However, in the basic and important objective to secure peace and ensure a better standard of living for our peoples, we share a common purpose. In that context, there are many areas in which we can co-operate to our mutual benefits. In the discussions between us and among our officials, we have identified and agreed upon some of these areas. The expansion of trade between our two countries is one such area. Exchange of technical expertise and technology is another. As contacts between us expand, I have no doubt the areas for co-operation will multiply..

Your Excellency,

In conclusion, I would like once again to express to you, your government and the Chinese people, our profound thanks for the very warm and generous hospitality that has been extended to me and my delegation. We shall always remember this visit as an important milestone in the development of the relations between Malaysia and China.

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I now request you to join me in a toast to:
Their Excellencies Premier Hua Guofeng and Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping for their continued good health and happiness. To the success of government and people of the People's Republic of China.

To the friendship and goodwill between the government and peoples of Malaysia and the People's Republic of China.